

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 RSC-01 ISO-00

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 L-02

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8114

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5636

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PFOR, CB, VE

SUBJECT: KHMER IN 29TH GA: CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE: VENEZUELA

REFERENCE A) USUN 3517 (REPEATED TO CARACAS)
B) USUN 3730

1. WE ANTICIPATE THAT CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE WILL MEET NEXT WEEK TO TAKE UP CREDENTIALS THAT WERE NOT ACTED UPON AT COMMITTEE'S LAST MEETING SEPTEMBER 27. WE EXPECT KHMER CREDENTIALS ARE ONLY ONES THAT WILL BE UNDER CONTENTION. WE MUST ASSUME THAT GRUNK SPONSORS WILL RAISE ISSUE.

2. SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION WITH OTHERS HERE, WE PLAN TO ADVISE GKR PERM REP CHHUT CHHOEUR TO SUBMIT HIS CREDENTIALS MORNING DECEMBER 6. THIS WILL ENABLE SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE FOR CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEETING AFTERNOON DECEMBER 9 OR 10, IF PHILIPPINE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SO DECIDES. WE HOPE THAT PLENARY WILL TAKE UP CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT ON DECEMBER 11 OR 12 (WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY). FURTHER DELAY WOULD PLACE ISSUE ON AGENDA IN UNGA'S FINAL THREE DAYS (FRIDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY), WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE.
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3. WE CAN COUNT ON FOUR CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO SUPPORT KHMER CREDENTIALS: BELGIUM, COSTA RICA, PHILIPPINES, USA, WE CAN COUNT ON FOUR MEMBERS TO OPPOSE: CHINA, SENEGAL, TANZANIA, USSR. NINTH MEMBER OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE IS VENEZUELA. VENEZUELA WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AT 28TH GA, WHEN IT DID VOTE IN PLENARY TO UPHOLD GKR CREDENTIALS. VENEZUELA'S VOTE IN CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE THIS YEAR IS CRUCIAL TO OBTAINING FAVORABLE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT AND THEREFORE TO ENHANCING OUR POSITION WHEN SENEGAL ET AL ATTACK CREDENTIALS IN PLENARY. IN VIEW OF THE DIFFICULTY WE HAD IN SECURING VENEZUELA'S FAVORABLE VOTE ON KHMER IN PLENARY LAST WEEK, WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD MAKE CERTAIN ASAP THAT WE CAN COUNT ON VENEZUELA IN CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE. OUR CONCERN ABOUT VENEZUELA'S VOTE ON KHMER CREDENTIALS IS HEIGHTENED BY FACT THAT VENEZUELA ABSTAINED ON SOUTH AFRICAN CREDENTIALS IN SEPTEMBER, DESPITE COMMITTEE'S TECHNICAL ROLE UNDER RULES 27 AND 28 OF RULES OF PROCEDURE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: INSTRUCTIONS OUR EMBASSY CARACAS TO APPROACH FOREIGN MINISTRY TO CONFIRM VENEZUELAN SUPPORT FOR GKR IN CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (AS WELL AS PLENARY). WE SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY COULD PROFITABLY ARGUE THAT LAST WEEK'S PLENARY ACTION ON KHMER MAKES IT EVEN MORE APPROPRIATE THAT COMMITTEE AND PLENARY ACT FAVORABLY ON GKR CREDENTIALS AT THIS SESSION; ANYTHING ELSE WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH NOV 27 VOTE ON SUBSTANCE. WE SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY ALSO STRESS OUR CONTINUED CONVICTION THAT CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE ROLE IS TECHNICAL ONE. WE ARE RECOMMENDING APPROACH IN CARACAS AT THIS POINT ON ASSUMPTION THAT INSTRUCTIONS FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL BE REQUIRED FOR CREDENTIALS VOTE AND BECAUSE EARLIER EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT SOME TIME WILL BE NEEDED TO GET VENEZUELAN POSITION NAILED DOWN. GKR AND ALLIES ALSO WILL BE APPROACHING VENEZUELAN HERE.

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